Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 01548 041413Z

43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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O R 041400Z MAR 75 FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 442 INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

CONFIDENTIAL JIDDA 1548

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: OTRA, SA, LY

SUBJECT: COLONEL QADHAFI'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA

REF: (A) JIDDA 496 (B) STATE 22596

- 1. DURING MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR MARCH 3 PRINCE SULTAN (MODA) TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT COLONEL QADHAFI OF LIBYA WAS COMING TO SAUDI ARABIA TO VISIT KING FAISAL ON THURSDAY, MARCH 6.
- 2. SULTAN SAID THAT ON MARCH 1, A CERTAIN AHMAD AL-MAQSABI, SPECIAL ENVOY SENT BY QADHAFI, CALLED ON HIM. THE MAIN PURPOSE WAS TO CHECK WITH SULTAN ON WHETHER KING FAISAL WOULD RECEIVE THE LIBYAN LEADER SHOULD THE LATTER COME TO CALL ON HIS MAJESTY.
- 3. SULTAN REPLIED TO AL-MAQSABI, THAT IT WAS A STRANGE QUESTION CONSIDERING KING FAISAL'S PERSONAL TRADITION OF NOT TURNING DOWN FRIENDLY VISITS* HE SAID HE WOULD CHECK AND LET MAQSABI KNOW.
- 4. THE ANSWER GIVEN TO MAQSABI WAS POSITIVE AND SAG SET THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 1975 AS THE DATE FOR QADHAFI'S VISIT. CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 JIDDA 01548 041413Z

- 5. SULTAN CONFIDED TO AMBASSADOR THAT THE DATE WAS CAREFULLY CHOSEN SO AS TO COME AFTER "THE GOOD COLONEL" MIGHT CLAIM TO HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN INFLUENCING SAUDI ARABIA'S ATTITUDE AT THE CONFERENCE. SULTAN, HOWEVER, GAVE TO AL-MAQSABI THE ITALIAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA AS THE REASON FOR NOT RECEIVING QADHAFI SOONER.
- 6. SULTAN MENTIONED TO AMBASSADOR THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL IF HE COULD BE INFORMED ASAP OF ANY FURTHER WORD USG MIGHT HAVE FOR HIM ON C-130'S FOR LARG (REF A). AMBASSADOR SAID HE WOULD PASS SULTAN'S QUERY BACK TO WASHINGTON.
- 7. SULTAN CONCLUDED "PERHAPS WE COULD HELP QADHAFI RETAIN THE REMAINING 5 PERCENT OF HIS SANITY IF HE HEEDED FAISAL'S COUNSEL*"
- 8. ACTION REQUESTED: ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ON STATUS OF C-130'S TO LARG. AKINS

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To: TRIPOLI STATE

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